



MEDICARE RATINGS FOR NURSING HOMES

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ISSUE

Summarize the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) overall ratings for nursing homes. Describe recent trends in the ratings for nursing homes in Connecticut and other New England states.

SUMMARY

CMS, part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, is the agency responsible for overseeing Medicare and Medicaid programs. It ranks the overall quality of Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes on a scale from one to five stars, with five stars indicating the highest quality. [Rankings](#) depend on health inspections, hours of care and other staffing measures, and quality of care. [Quality of care](#) generally measures patient outcomes, including the percentage of patients who are (1) successfully discharged to the community or (2) hospitalized after a nursing home stay.

[CMS collects this data](#) from a variety of sources, including the health care centers or providers, the Joint Commission (a nonprofit accreditation organization), and from CMS databases. CMS does not have data for all Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes, and the data CMS collects may change annually.

Connecticut nursing homes average a 3.529 rating, the eighth highest rating in the country and the third highest in New England, behind Maine (second nationally) and Rhode Island (third nationally). The other New England states rank 14th (Vermont), 16th (New Hampshire), and 22nd (Massachusetts).

Hawaii has the highest average nursing home rating (3.864), and Louisiana has the lowest (2.624). Nationally, nursing homes average a 3.157 rating.



From 2014-2016, Connecticut nursing homes earned more stars and ranked higher than the national average. But Connecticut's ranking fell from 6th in the country in 2014 to 8th during the same time frame. Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island improved their national ranking, while New Hampshire's and Massachusetts' rankings fell.

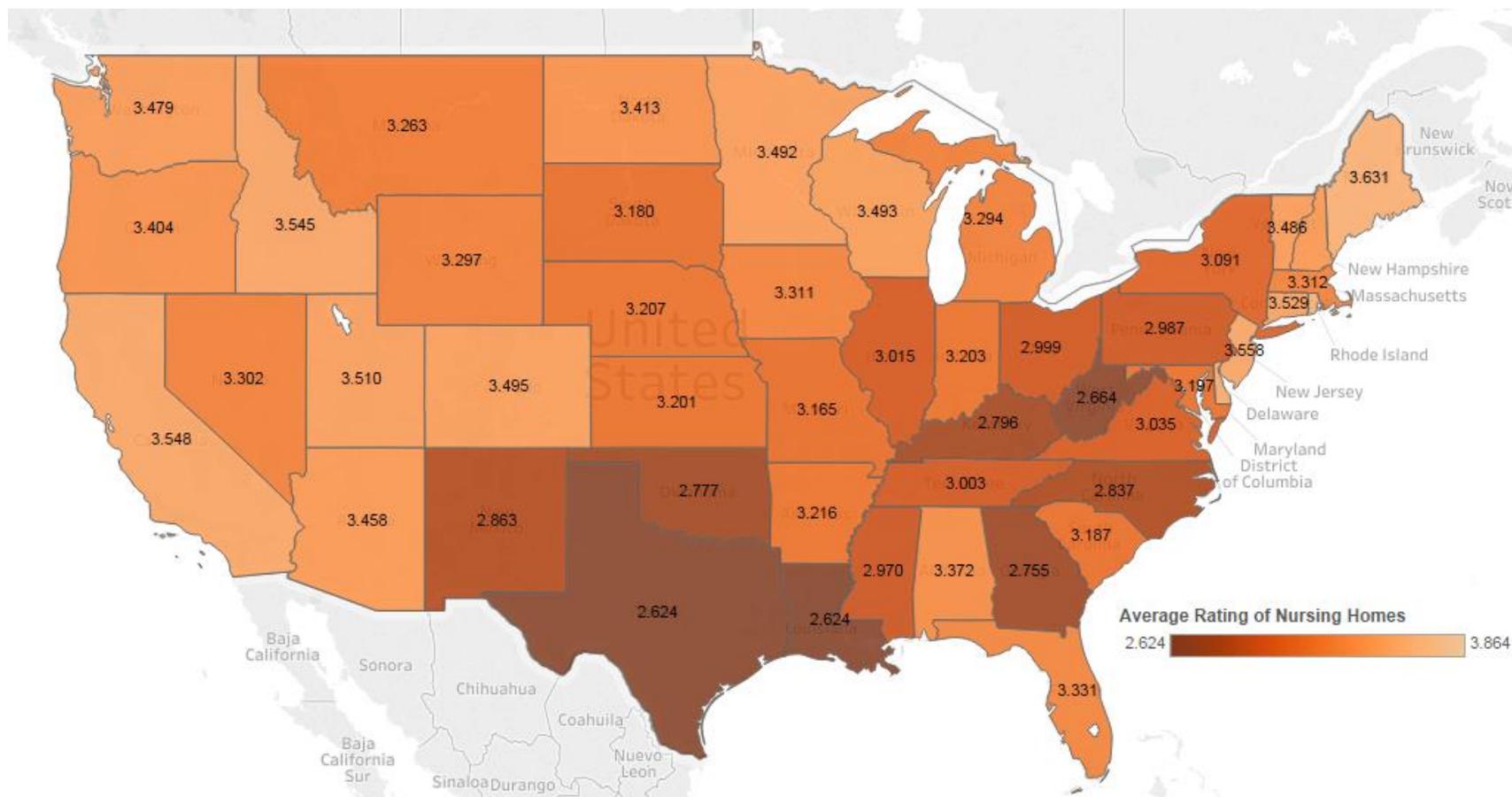
NATIONAL DATA

Table 1 ranks each state according to the average overall rating of nursing homes in the state. Figure 1 shows the average rating of all Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing homes for which CMS has data in each state.

Table 1: Average Overall Rating of Nursing Homes in Each State, 2016

Rank	State	Average Rating
1	Hawaii	3.864
2	Maine	3.631
3	Rhode Island	3.631
4	Delaware	3.600
5	New Jersey	3.558
6	California	3.548
7	Idaho	3.545
8	Connecticut	3.529
9	Utah	3.510
10	Alaska	3.500
11	Colorado	3.495
12	Wisconsin	3.493
13	Minnesota	3.492
14	Vermont	3.486
15	Washington	3.479
16	New Hampshire	3.461
17	Arizona	3.458
18	North Dakota	3.413
19	Oregon	3.404
20	Alabama	3.372
21	Florida	3.331
22	Massachusetts	3.312
23	Iowa	3.311
24	Nevada	3.302
25	Wyoming	3.297
26	Michigan	3.294
27	Montana	3.263
28	Arkansas	3.216
29	Nebraska	3.207
30	Indiana	3.203
31	Kansas	3.201
32	Maryland	3.197
33	South Carolina	3.187
34	South Dakota	3.180
35	Missouri	3.165
	National Average	3.157
36	New York	3.091
37	Virginia	3.035
38	Illinois	3.015
39	Tennessee	3.003
40	Ohio	2.999
41	Pennsylvania	2.987
42	Mississippi	2.970
43	New Mexico	2.863
44	North Carolina	2.837
45	Kentucky	2.796
46	Oklahoma	2.777
47	Georgia	2.755
48	West Virginia	2.664
49	Texas	2.624
50	Louisiana	2.624

Figure 1: Average Overall Rating of Nursing Homes in Each State, 2016



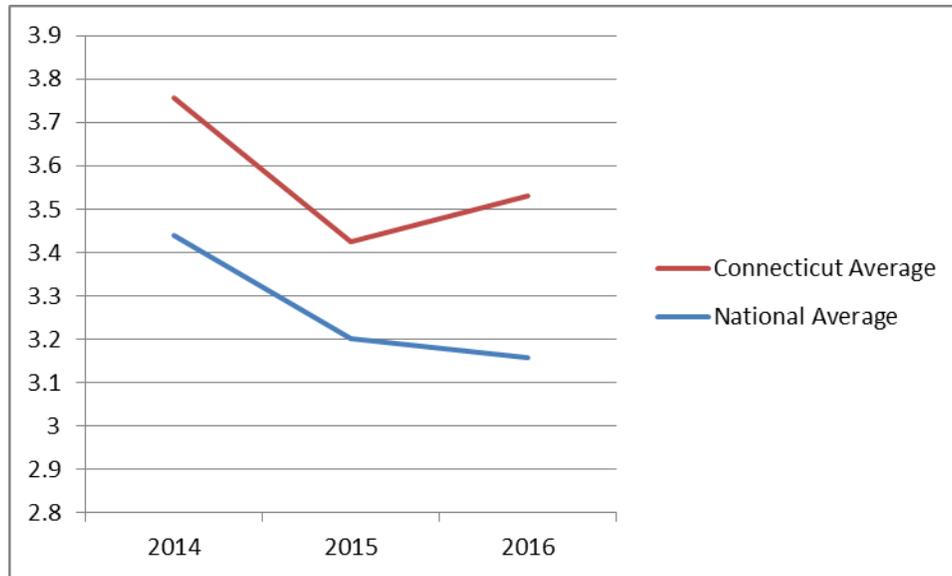
Not Shown: Alaska (3.5); Delaware (3.600); Hawaii (3.864); New Hampshire (3.461); and Rhode Island (3.631)
 Source: CMS data compiled by author. CMS provider info data processed 8/1/2016.

CONNECTICUT AND NEW ENGLAND TRENDS 2014-2016

In 2014, Connecticut nursing homes averaged 3.75 stars. The average rating fell to 3.42 in 2015 before rising to 3.529 in 2016. During this time, the national average fell from 3.43 in 2014 to 3.157 in 2016.

Figure 2 shows the Connecticut and national averages over the past three years.

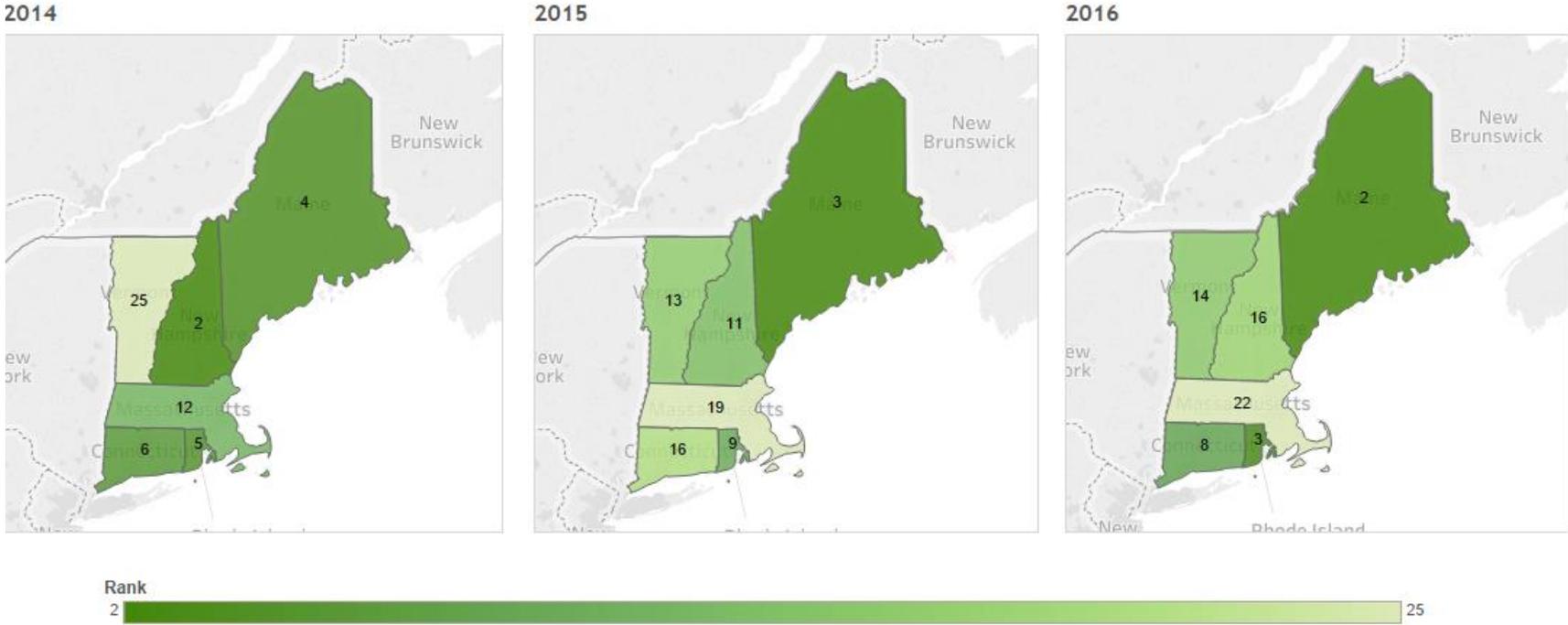
Figure 2: Connecticut and National Averages, 2014-2016



Source: CMS data compiled by author. CMS provider info file date 10/1/14, 10/1/15, and 8/1/2016, respectively.

Connecticut was ranked sixth in the country in 2014. Its ranking dropped to 16th in 2015 and rose to eighth in 2016. Massachusetts, the lowest ranked New England state, dropped from 12th in 2014 to 22nd in 2016. Maine, the highest performing New England state, rose from fourth to second over the same time frame. The national rankings of each New England state from 2014 – 2016 is presented below.

Figure 3: National Rankings of Average Nursing Home Ratings, New England States 2014-2016



Source: CMS data compiled by author. CMS provider info file date 10/1/14, 10/1/15, and 8/1/2016, respectively.